

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8398
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1132

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PDEV PINS LA US TH ID MY SN RP
SUBJECT: LPRP NEWSPAPER ATTACKS ASEAN

REF: VIENTIANE 0890

1. THE LPRP DAILY NEWSPAPER "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE"
AUGUST 4 PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED
"WHAT IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE 2ND ASEAN SUMMIT
CONFERENCE." THE EDITORIAL ATTACKED ASEAN ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE KUALA LUMPUR SUMMIT,
SAYING IN PART:

2. THE SUMMIT OPENS AT A TIME WHEN "THE MOVEMENT OF
THE PEOPLE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR
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NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY, PEACE, TRUE NEUTRALITY
AND THE REMOVAL OF ALL AMERICAN IMPERIALIST BASES FROM
THEIR TERRITORY IS UNDERGOING INTENSIVE GROWTH."

3. IT CLAIMED THAT ASEAN MEMBER STATE COOPERATION HAS
NOT PRODUCED RESULTS THAT CORRESPOND WITH ASEAN'S
OBJECTIVES AND ADDED THAT "SOME COUNTRIES IN ASEAN

HAVE AGREED TO BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION TO SUPPRESS THE PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT IN THEIR COUNTRIES. THIS HAS ALTERED THE CHARACTER AND ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION... AUTHORITIES IN THE U.S. HAVE STATED THAT SEATO HAS DISAPPEARED BUT THAT THE MANILA PACT IS STILL IN FORECE."

4. THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. IS "MAINTAINING ITS MILITARY BASES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND IS TRYING TO USE ASEAN TO RESIST THE TENDENCY TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, PEACE, NEUTRALITY IN THIS AREA." IT CONTINUES, "ONE ASEAN MEMBER IS MAINTIANING A HOSTILE POLICY AGAINST THE LPDR, SRV AND DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. ESPECIALLY IN LAOS, IT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE LAO REACTIONARIES EXILES, INTERVENES IN LAO INTERNAL AFFAIRS, INTRUDES INTO LAO TERRITORY AND USES ECONOMIC TRICKS TO OPPRESS THE LPDR. WHEN ONE ASEAN MEMBER DOES SUCH THINGS, WHAT CAN BE SAID OF ASEAN? THE PROVERB SAYS, "BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER'."

5. THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES: "IF ASEAN ALLOWS A MEMBER TO OPPOSE THE WORLD TENDENCY AND PROMOTE BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION UNDER THE PRETEXT OF RESISTANCE TO COMMUNISM IT WILL CERTAINLY LEAD TO DANGER. IT WILL MAKE ASEAN BECOME A MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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ORGANIZATION WHICH IS AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLE WHO PREFER PEACE AND NEUTRALITY."

6. THE EDITORIAL CALLS UPON THE ASEAN MEMBER STATES TO ADOPT THE LINE OF "PEACE, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND TRUE NEUTRALITY AND COOPERATE IN OPPOSITION TO THE AGGRESSIVE AND MONOPOLISTIC POLICIES OF THE IMPERIALIST."

7. COMMENT: THE ATTACKS ON ASEAN ARE FAMILIAR. THE ATTEMPT TO SINGLE OUT THAILAND FOR SPECIAL CONDEMNATION, COUPLED WITH A WARNING TO THE OTHER ASEAN STATES THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ALLOW ONE STATE TO "PROMOTE BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION UNDER THE PRETEXT OF 'RESISTANCE TO COMMUNISM'" SUGGESTS A COMMUNIST EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE ASEAN PRESSURE ON THAILAND TO BE MORE ACCOMMODATING TO THE COMMUNIST STATES OF INDOCHINA, AS NOTED PARA 12 REFTEL. THE WARNING THAT SUCH MILITARY COOPERATION WOULD MAKE ASEAN INTO A MILITARY ORGANIZATION "AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES" PRESUMABLY

ALLUDES TO THE THREAT WHICH THE COMMUNISTS POSE
THROUGH THEIR OPTION OF INCREASING THE LEVEL OF
THEIR SUPPORT TO INSURGENCY MOVERMENTS ("PEOPLES
MOVEMENTS") IN THE REGION.
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